GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TOURISM AND CULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4290
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2002
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF INDIA
RENUKA CHOWDHURY;SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has with the help of Indian Navy discovered and retrieved Eighteenth Century British Ship named the `Princess Royal`;

(b) if so, the location from where the wreckage has been retrieved;

(c) whether the Government have evaluated the Ship; and

(d) if so, the valuation thereof?

Answer

MINISTER FOR TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN)

(a) & (b) No, Sir. The joint expedition of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) and the Indian Navy (IN), undertaken in May 2002 neither discovered nor retrieved the Eighteenth Century British Ship. The present expedition aims to ascertain the condition of the wreck which was, in fact, discovered in 1990 off Bangaram Island in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep. However, the site of the wreck had earlier yielded a bell, inscribed with `Princes Royal, 1792`. It is not yet certain whether it was a British ship as its flag still remains to be identified.

(c) & (d) Question does not arise.